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Up-and-Comers: News for Student Archivists—Matthew Peek, Assistant Editor, Kent State University

Please submit “Up-and-Comers” items to Matthew Peek at freakyhistorian@hotmail.com.

MAC 2012 Annual Meeting Student Poster Session Unveils Accomplished Student Work

By Matthew Peek

On April 21, the MAC 2012 Annual Meeting student poster session was held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Graduate students demonstrated their work and research, covering topics as varied as college residence hall archives and oral history’s impact on community. Heading this impressive display was Jeremy Katz, the winner of this year’s student poster session. A graduate student in Wright State University’s (WSU) public history program, Katz presented the results of his graduate capstone project, conducted at the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton, founded in 1910. Consisting of 150 linear feet and including ancient Jewish artifacts, the collection was transferred for safe storage to WSU Special Collections, and the entire processing and transfer coordination was conducted by Katz in the summer of 2011.

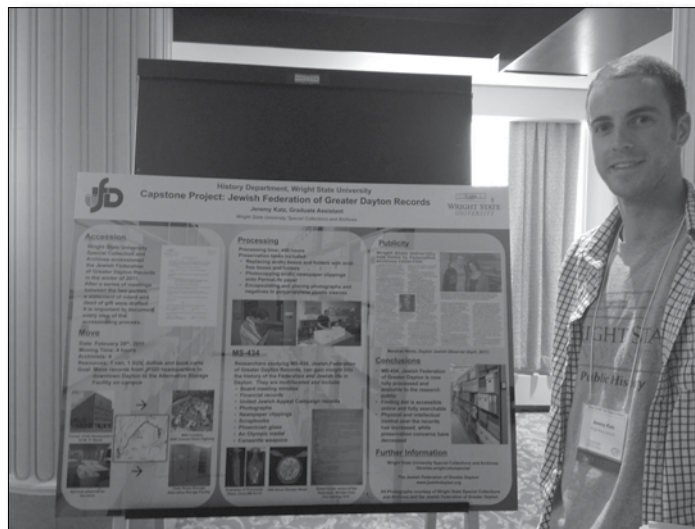
Two posters stood out for the uniqueness of the materials and the students’ approaches to managing records. Jennifer L. Kirmer, a graduate student in the University of Wisconsin–Madison S.L.I.S. program, presented a poster on “University Housing Media Digitization,” detailing the digitization of over 5,000 photographs and slides, while she served in a “liaison” capacity between the Housing Department and the University Archives. Kirmer’s digitization effort facilitated the addition of historic materials to the Archives, and provided a university department with access copies, serving to meet the needs of both parties and ensuring the preservation of University Housing’s marketing images. Kirmer’s project

demonstrated the contributions that students can make when they connect the needs of campus departments with archival preservation and increased access—thus opening up greater internal constituencies within the university setting.

A student in the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee’s on-line S.L.I.S. program, Stephanie L. Bricking, the Albin B. Sabin Archivist at the Henry R. Winkler Center for the History of the Health Professions at the University of Cincinnati, presented her poster on the grant-based digitization of the 50,000-item collection of Albin

Sabin, the developer of the oral, live virus polio vaccine. The collection is challenging in several respects, most importantly, the great number of military testing records from Sabin’s medical military service in WWII, which contain sensitive data. Bricking has worked to develop a redaction policy in coordination with the Information

Security Oversight Office of the National Archives and Records Administration. This policy addresses the complicated issues related to classified military materials from the 1940s to the 1960s, which serve as major obstacles to providing public access to millions of records nationwide. For more information, check out the collection’s Web site at <http://sabin.uc.edu/>.



Jeremy Katz, Wright State University. Photo by Susan Jacobs.